

## Commission News

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## Gilbert, Tisdale attend NASCA annual meeting in New York

*Mark Gilbert begins term as NASCA president on Jan. 1*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — MSWCC Executive Director Mark Gilbert and Natural Resources Specialist Robin Tisdale traveled to New York's Finger Lakes region for the 2018 National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) annual meeting Oct. 1-3, in Syracuse.

During the field staff sharing session, Robin Tisdale made a presentation about MSWCC's Youth Camp.

In addition to a variety of speakers and informative sessions, the event provided an opportunity for field staff personnel to connect with peers from other states.



NASCA Executive Board, effective Jan. 1, 2019: From left to right, Brian Farkas (WV) treasurer; Mark Gilbert (MS) president; Cindy Lair (CO) immediate past president; Kent Zimmerman (NE) Secretary, and; Doug Thomas (MN) vice president.

MS Science Teachers Association  
honors Pascagoula science teacher

BILOXI — Leigh Hanna, a Pascagoula High School science teacher and Envirothon team advisor, received the Fred W. Brown Outstanding High School Science Teacher Award at the Mississippi Science Teachers Association (MSTA) convention Oct. 30, 2018.

Hanna is the Envirothon co-advisor for Pascagoula High School.

Branch Director Clay Burns represented the MS Envirothon with a booth at the convention.



MSTA President Johnny Mattox presents award to Leigh Hanna.



Natural Resources Specialist Robin Tisdale, at left, participates in a State Sharing Session at the NASCA 2018 annual meeting. Pictured with Tisdale (left to right) : Jim Plassmeyer (MO); Kelly Hedgepeth (NC); Laura Johnson (WA), in back, and; Bettina Scherer (NV). Participants rotated to different tables in order to network with others. Tisdale also made a presentation about MSWCC Youth Camp at the meeting.

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# MSWCC adds three to Commission field staff

BY KATHY DOUGAN, MSWCC

Please join Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission in welcoming three Natural Resources Specialists to our staff, effective Thursday, Nov. 1.

**LANCE C. FAIRCHILDS**, a native of Morton, MS, will be the field representative for the Delta territory in the state. A graduate of Mississippi State University with a major in Interdisciplinary Studies, with concentration in Agriculture, and an associate degree in electronics technology, Lance previously worked as a natural resource scientist for the Pickering Firm, as a technician for System Scale Corp, and for L & T Railroad Contractors.

A newlywed, Lance and his wife, Jessica Aaron Collins Fairchilds, who is a mental health nurse practitioner, live in Flowood and attend Colonial Heights Baptist Church. Lance enjoys hunting, fishing and watching college football.

**CARLEE GOODE** of Pelahatchie, Mississippi, graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in biology and a minor in wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture/human-wildlife conflict.

At MSWCC, Carlee will be the field representative for the east central portion of the state. She previously worked at MSU in the college of Forest Resources, where she conducted surveys of vegetation and avian point-



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT ARE MSWCC NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALISTS LAUREN WILSON, CARLEE GOODE AND LANCE FAIRCHILDS. PHOTO BY KATHY DOUGAN

count, identified North American mammals, and compiled and organized data files.

A Paddlefish Research volunteer, Carlee has attended a Bird ID Bootcamp at Bankhead National Forest in Alabama. In her spare time, she enjoys riding her horses and spending time with her dogs.

**LAUREN NICHOLE WILSON** of Clinton, Mississippi, will be a roving field representative through the State, and will assist commission Education Specialist Chelsey Gazaway with teacher and advisor training and work-

shops, including Envirothon, and with Youth Camp.

A graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in Wildlife Sciences, Lauren has worked for Dr. Mike Ferriss at Family Pet Clinic, and as a volunteer at MS Animal Rescue League, and at youth and summer camps.

She is a member of the Episcopal Church of the Creator in Clinton.

When Lauren isn't working, she enjoys spending time with her cats, her dog and her pet python.

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## 500 students attend the 2018 Great Delta Bear Affair

MSWCC Field Rep Robin Tisdale (yellow arrow) was among the volunteers at the Great Delta Bear Affair, which was held Oct. 27, 2018, in Rolling Fork. This year's festival in Sharkey Co. paid tribute to Holt Collier, noted African-American Confederate scout, bear hunter and sportsman, who led a hunt in 1902 for President Theodore Roosevelt.

## Lowndes High Tunnel under construction

LOWNDES .CO. —

A hands-on educational high tunnel is nearing completion in Lowndes Co., and will provide an environment for school-age children, 4-H Junior Master Gardeners, and the local community to learn about the benefits of using a high tunnel for crop production and erosion control.

The Lowndes Co. Soil and Water Conservation District, in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the MSU Extension Services of Lowndes County (MSU ES) acquired the educational high tunnel, which was made possible through grants awarded by the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts



### MACD Endowment Grant in Action

Pictured with the Lowndes County SWCD educational high tunnel are (left to right): Melvin Ellis of Mayhew Tomato Farm, Reid Nevins of the MSU Extension Service of Lowndes Co. and Lori Chiasson of Lowndes Co. SWCD.

Endowment (MACD) and the Monsanto Farmers Grow Communities Grant.

The district plans an informational session on the process of assem-

bling and erecting a high tunnel structure, and hopes this session will be beneficial for those interested in acquiring a high tunnel themselves.

## IN BRIEF

### Copiah Co. Wildlife Jamboree scheduled for Nov. 16

Copiah Co. Wildlife Jamboree will be held on at 6 PM Nov. 16, 2018, at the Copiah County Extension Building in Gallman.

Guest speaker this year is Drew Turner, a taxidermist from Hattiesburg, who will entertain with stories about rural life in Amite County. The evening includes a wildlife game supper and door prizes.

### Holmes Co. annual meeting set for Nov. 27 in Lexington

The Holmes County annual meeting will be held Nov. 27, 2018, at the multipurpose building in Lexington. For more information, please email Melissa.upchurch@ms.usda.gov or call 662-834-4688.

### FARMtastic coming to Sunflower Co. Nov. 28-29; and Lincoln Co. Dec. 5-7

FARMtastic, an agriculture experimental learning activity hosted by the MSU Extension Service, will be held in Sunflower Co. Nov. 28-29, and in Lincoln Co. Dec. 5-7.

For more information about the Sunflower Co. event, call 662-887-9799; for the Lincoln Co. event, call 601-833-9321.

To find out more about the FARMtastic experience, contact Julie White at 662-325-8195 or email [j.white@msstate.edu](mailto:j.white@msstate.edu).

### Row Crop Short Course to be held at Starkville Dec. 3-5

The MSU Row Crop Short Course will be held Dec. 3-5, 2018, at the Cotton Mill Conference Center in Starkville.

Preregister by Nov. 27 by visiting <http://extension.msstate.edu/row-cro-short-course>; lodging and the program schedule are also on the webpage.